

**Introduced by Senator Roth**

August 12, 2013

---

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 64—Relative to the Sergeant Gilbert Cortez, Sr. and K-9 Mattie Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 64, as introduced, Roth. Sergeant Gilbert Cortez, Sr. and K-9 Mattie Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 15 in the County of Riverside as the Sergeant Gilbert Cortez, Sr. and K-9 Mattie Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Gilbert Cortez, Sr. was born on October 4, 1966;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Cortez was raised in the City of Norco and  
4 attended Norco High School, where he played baseball; and

5 WHEREAS, On September 17, 1990, Mr. Cortez began his  
6 career with the California Department of Corrections and  
7 Rehabilitation; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Cortez was first assigned to the California  
9 Institution for Men in Chino and then transferred to Calipatria  
10 State Prison on October 29, 1992, where he became part of the  
11 Investigative Services Unit; and

12 WHEREAS, While at Calipatria State Prison, Mr. Cortez was  
13 promoted to the rank of Sergeant; and

1 WHEREAS, Sergeant Cortez then transferred to the California  
2 Rehabilitation Center on October 29, 2001, to return to his  
3 hometown of Norco; and

4 WHEREAS, Sergeant Cortez held various positions at the  
5 California Rehabilitation Center and was able to join the  
6 Investigative Services Unit once again as an investigator; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2011, Sergeant Cortez became a part of the  
8 Southern Regional K-9 Unit, partnering with K-9 Mattie, who was  
9 certified to search for contraband and narcotics; and

10 WHEREAS, K-9 Mattie was a Belgian Malinois who was  
11 donated by a private citizen in the San Diego area; and

12 WHEREAS, Sergeant Cortez, at the age of 46, and K-9 Mattie  
13 were killed in an automobile accident on State Highway Route 79  
14 near San Felipe Road in the County of San Diego on March 25,  
15 2013; and

16 WHEREAS, K-9 Mattie died at the scene of the accident, while  
17 Sergeant Cortez succumbed to his injuries at a local fire station  
18 before an emergency services helicopter could transport him to a  
19 trauma center; and

20 WHEREAS, At the time of the accident, Sergeant Cortez was  
21 part of a convoy of state corrections K-9 officers that was en route  
22 to inspect the La Cima Conservation Fire Camp, an inmate-staffed  
23 firefighting outpost in a rural part of the County of San Diego; and

24 WHEREAS, Sergeant Cortez was well loved and respected in  
25 the Eastvale and Norco communities; and

26 WHEREAS, Sergeant Cortez is survived by his wife, two  
27 children, and parents; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the  
30 portion of State Highway Route 15 from Second Street in Norco  
31 to Limonite Avenue in Eastvale as the Sergeant Gilbert Cortez,  
32 Sr. and K-9 Mattie Memorial Highway; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested  
34 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the  
35 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this  
36 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate  
37 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it  
38 further

1     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
2     this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author  
3     for appropriate distribution.

O